ISSUE ONE COMICS
No.2
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Suggested for mature readers
ZERO
ASSASSIN
GEE, MY OWN COVER... THANKS!
EDITOR

They'll tell you that there are things about our world that will never change. That there are things that are too big for us as individuals to tackle, problems too old to ever be solved. There are those who are too lazy to try to think for themselves, have too much self-interest to care about making their own environments a better place. It's these same people that feel threatened when someone tries to do something about current wrongs; that perhaps they won't make as much money; that their standard of living will drop. That if they are to prosper, the inevitability is that someone else will have to suffer. Basically they are people that do not, and will not, take responsibility for the consequences of their actions. They don't want you to think any differently to what they do.

Watch out.

It is the aim of these people to rob you of your power.

We live in a society of illusion. Often the villains of our dramas seem like heroes; devils often come dressed as angels, and enemies wear the smile of friends.

Be conscious of what people try to tell you to be the truth. The victors write our histories and our govern-ments are filled with plutocrats.

Use your power of thought and your voice of reason to fight these monsters. It's the basis of what makes us human beings..... without it we'll end up with ZERO.

Autohead

Sydney, 1994

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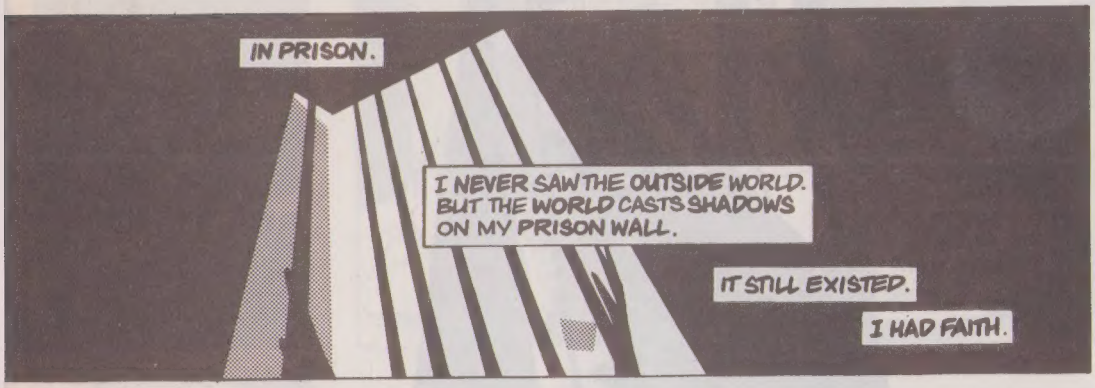
IN PRISON.

I NEVER SAW THE SUN. BUT I SAW THE LIGHT THAT IT PROJECTED.

IT STILL EXISTED.

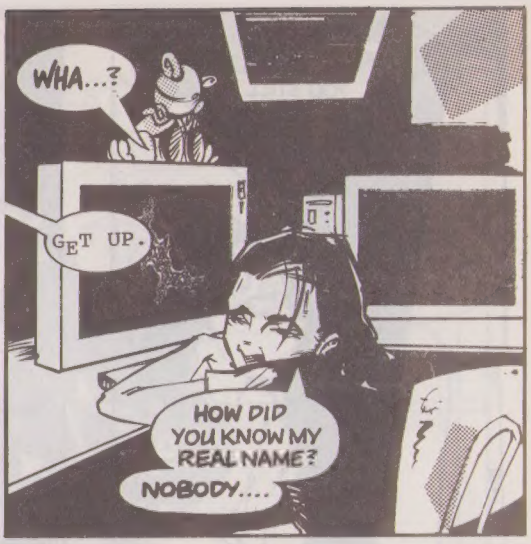


FADE TO BLACK

WRITTEN BY **MAX AUTOHEAD** · ILLUSTRATED BY **DAVID JAMES** · LETTERED BY **CHRIS WAHL**

SOUNDTRACK: TRICK OF THE LIGHT - THE TRIFFIDS

ERIC...
ERIC BLAIR

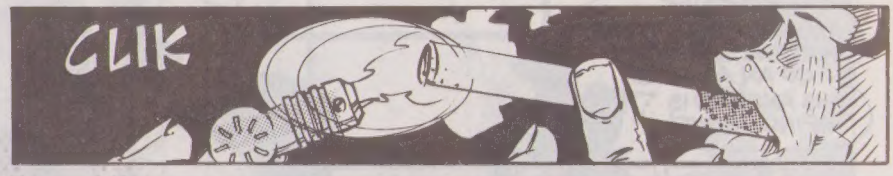

WHA...?
GET UP.
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY REAL NAME?
NOBODY....

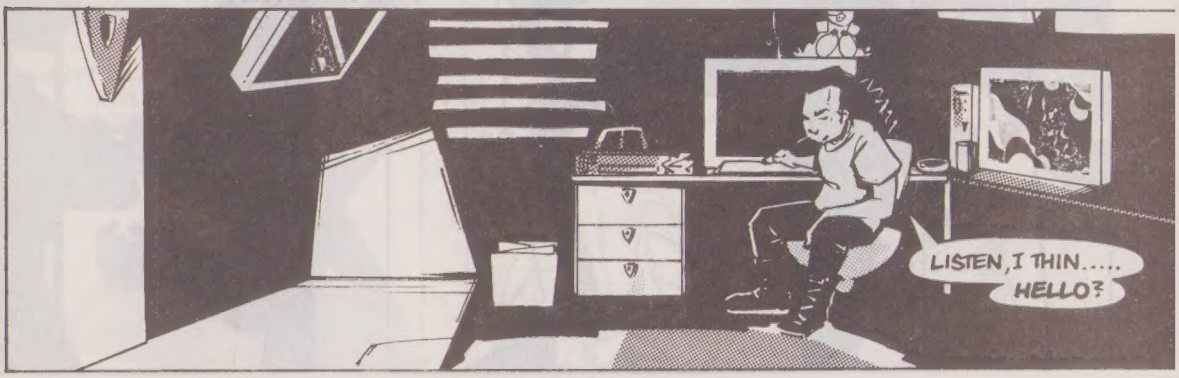
YOU ARE KNOWN AS THE GAME OVER MAN.
GET UP.

JESUS IT'S DARK.
WHO ARE YOU?
ARE YOU WITH THE COMPANY?

YES. TURN OFF YOUR VIDEO SHADOW.
I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

YEAH, ALL RIGHT ...HANG ON.


CLIK


LISTEN, I THIN.....
HELLO?

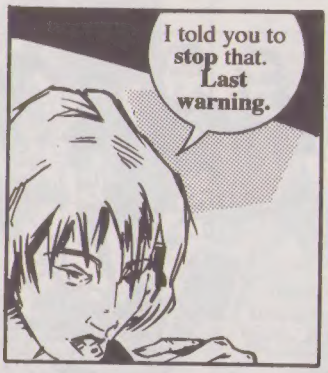
HELLO?
YOU STILL...
...!RE NOT TELLING ME THE TRUTH, McPHERSON. YOU EITHER TELL ME OR FIND SOME OTHER SUCKER.
YOU'LL BE IN SERIOUS BREACH OF CONTRACT.
YEAH, RIGHT, SO SUE ME.
I'M SURE ZONE CONTROL WILL LOVE ANYTHING YOU FEED THEM.
PAYMENT WILL BE WITHHELD. YOU'LL BE BLACK LISTED IF YOU DROP THIS NOW.
FUCK YOU!
DO YOUR JOB. FIND THIS SHADOWMAKER. HIRE OTHERS, AS MANY AS YOU NEED.
SEARCH AND DESTROY.
HEY!
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT SOME ROUTINE SHUTDOWN OF AN AI HERE!
THIS ANDROID IS WIPING US OUT!
THIS IS HARD CORE!

I CAN'T WORK IN THE DARK, BOSS.
TELL ME WHAT IT IS.
WHAT KINDA FUCKED UP VIRUS IS IN IT'S MAINFRAME?
WHAT KINDA VIRUS CAN POSSESS A SHADOWMAKER AND MAKE IT DEADLIER?
THAT'S WHAT THE GAMEOVER MAN'S FOR.
BULLSHIT! YOU ALREADY KNOW.
YOU'RE AFRAID IF WE FIND OUT WHAT THAT SHADOWMAKER REALLY IS, WE'LL ALL FREAK AND RUN.
YOU'RE SPECULATING.
OINK
FUCK IT! THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.
RIGHT.
JUST DO YOUR JOB, RAZORBACK.
Ttttt!
SLAM!
FUCK FUCK FUCK FUCK FUCK!
NO DICE, huh?

McPHERSON HEADS LIVEWIRE. ALL HER DICE ARE LOADED.
Uh-huh. HOW'S THE HAND COMING ALONG?
SPONGE BATH
O'NK
FINE.
GOOD REGENERATION VRIL.
ALMOST FULLY GROWN.
OINK
BETTER SUIT UP.
WE'VE GOT A VIRUS TO LOCATE.
WHERE'RE WE GOIN'?
THE STREETS.
THE SHADOWMAKER VIRUS HAS GOT A USE-BY DATE THAT IT'LL TRY TO EXTEND.
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW PEOPLE SPECIALISED ENOUGH TO HANDLE THAT KINDA LIFE EXTENSION.
MORE LIKE A COUPLE OF HUNDRED.
OINK
Yeah.
WELL, THE SOONER WE GET STARTED.
VROOOOM
BANDS INCORPORATED
SPONGE BATH
TONITE
BIOLIMB
HIYA, LADY.
Hello
CONSUM
BUY! BUY! B
PUBLIC SERVICE AN

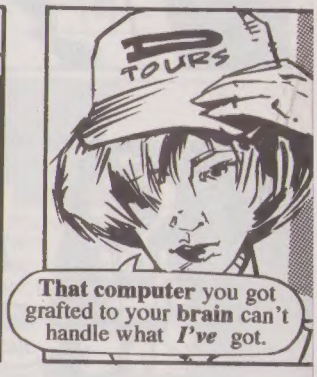
WOW! YOU SURE ARE PRETTY.
WOMEN LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN THIS PART OF TOWN.
I'm here for a reason. Stop that.
YOU DON'T WANNA GO THROUGH THAT DOOR, LADY.

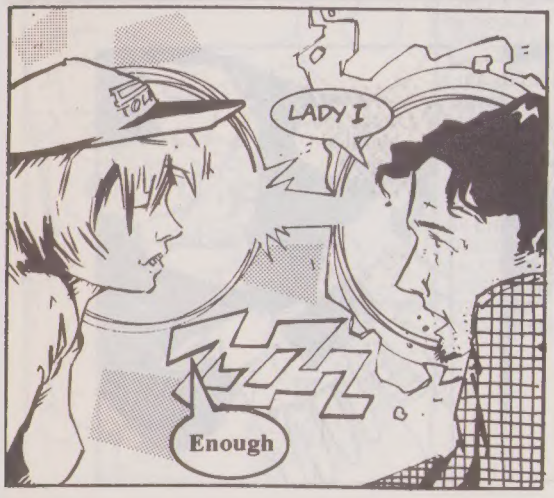
I'VE SEEN SOME MIGHTY BAD PEOPLE GO THROUGH THAT DOOR.
PRETTY FOLKS LIKE YOU, THEY NEVER COME OUT AGAIN.

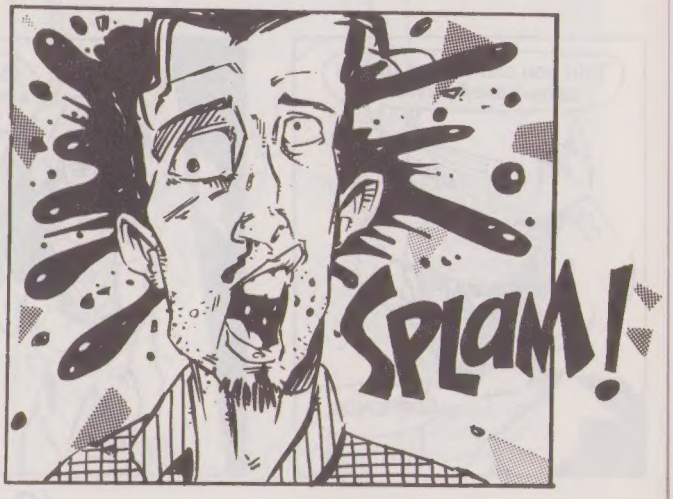

I told you to stop that. Last warning.

LADY, I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP.

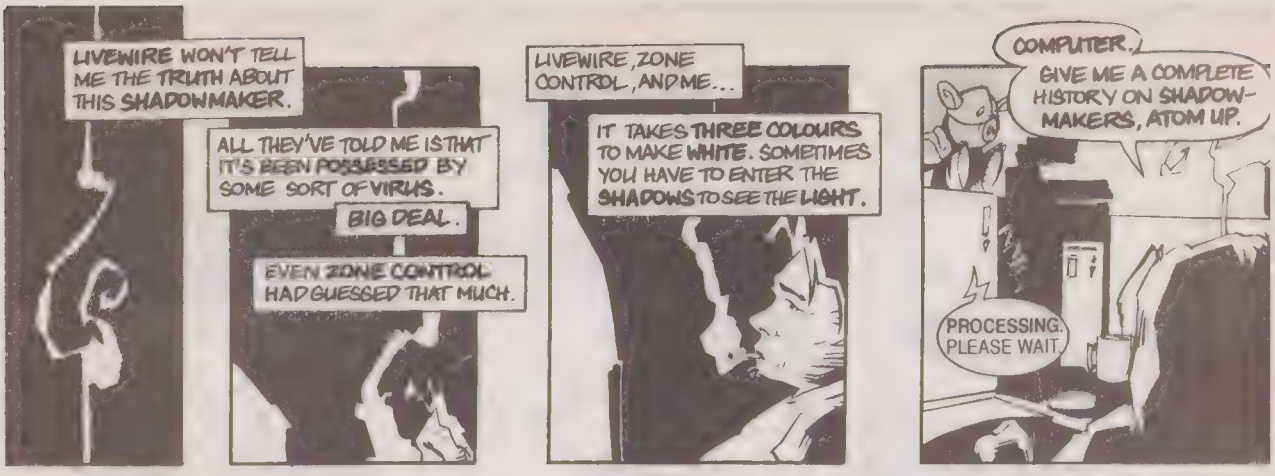
Clever. You're another soul destroyer. You the bouncer?
I told you to stop trying to access my mind.

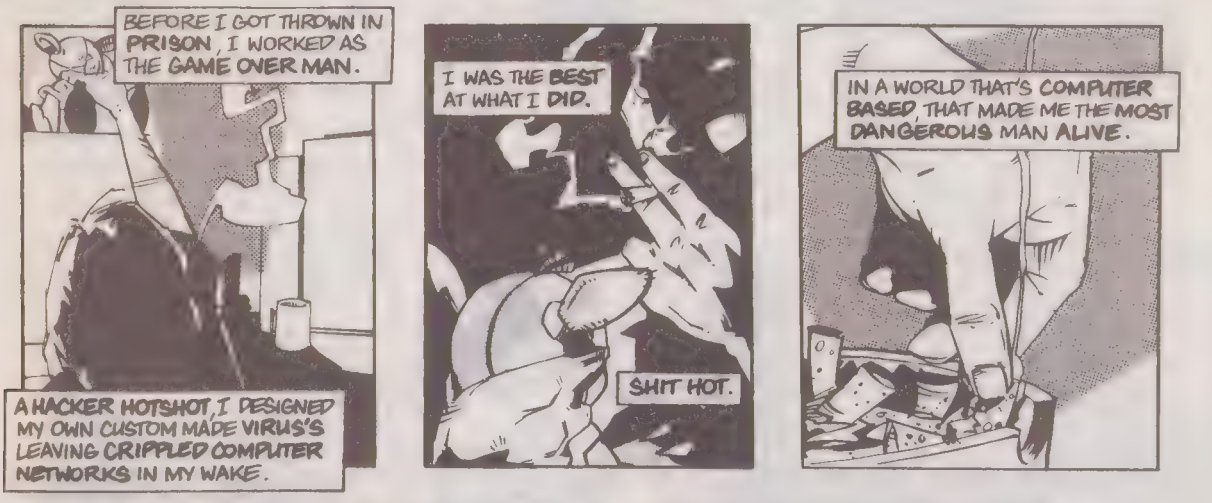

TOURS
That computer you got grafted to your brain can't handle what I've got.

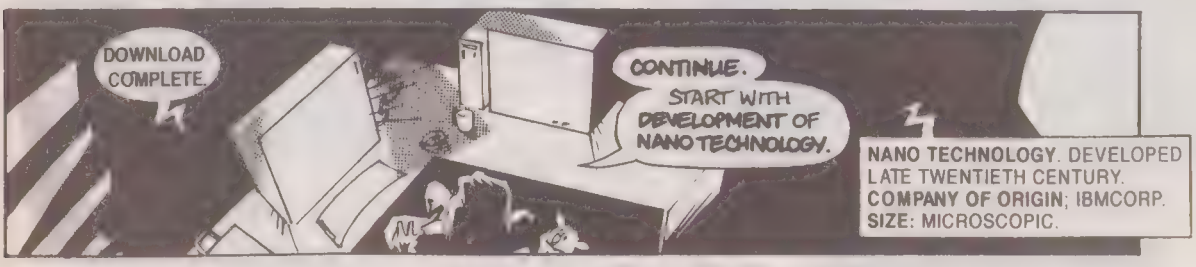

LADY I
Enough

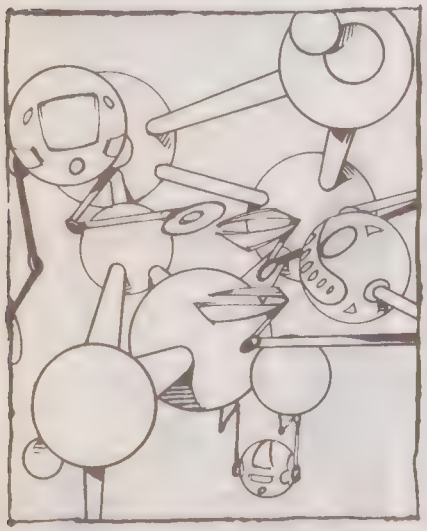

SPLAM!

KRAK!
Surprise! Three guesses to what I am.
A SHADOWMAKER!
Right. I'm looking for the man known as Chip.
If you want to remain breathing I suggest you step forward.
A SHADOWMAKER huh, WELL WELL.
NEVER SEEN ONE OF YOUR KIND BEFORE.
THOUGHT YOU WAS JUST A MYTH.
You Chip?
YEP. WHAT CAN I DO FER YA?
Told you can extend life on nano-based products.
TOURS
DEPENDS.
Card holds an access to a large account.
Do the job and it's yours.





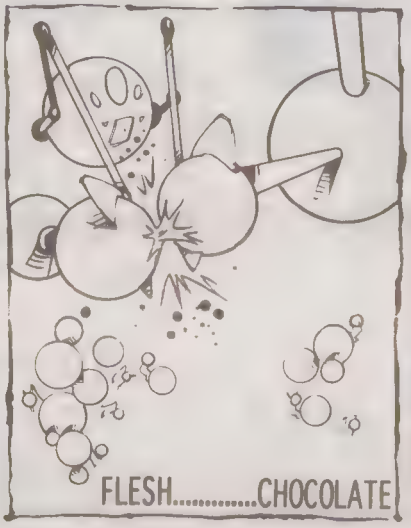




CHIEF PURPOSE IN DESIGN- TO AFFECT AND MOVE MOLECULES.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MATTER.

MAIN OUTCOME- BY CHANGING MOLECULES ON AN ATOMIC LEVEL, MATTER COULD BE TRANSFORMED

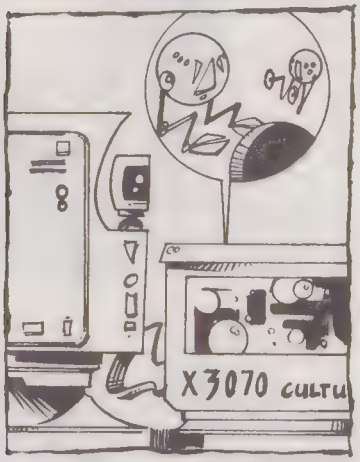


EXAMPLE. LEAD COULD BE TURNED INTO GOLD. DIAMONDS INTO CHOCOLATE.

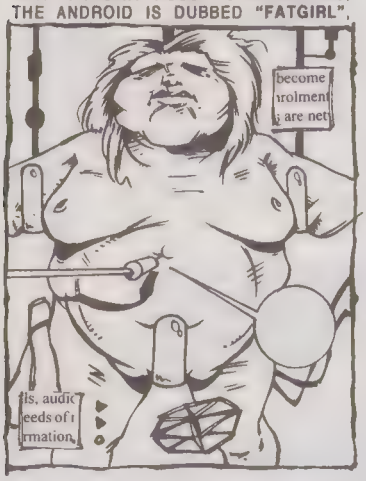
FLESH INTO METAL.

IMAGINATION AND REALITY BECAME ONE.

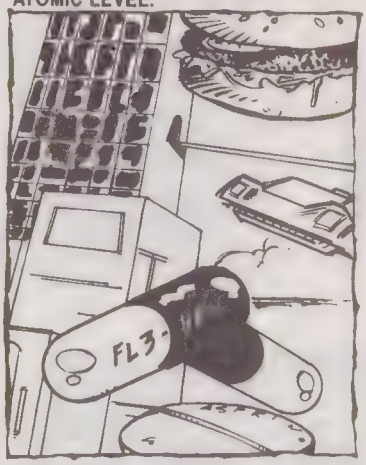
BREAKTHROUGHS BY THE **NANOSPACE CORPORATION** IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY ALLOWED FOR ARTIFICIAL **NANO CULTURES** TO BE **GROWN IN VATS.**



2017AD. AFTER EXPERIMENTING WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, **CYBERCORP** BUILDS THE WORLDS FIRST FULLY ARTIFICIAL BEING. **MICRO-PROCESSOR** FOR A BRAIN AND **NANOVAT GROWN** WITH **PLASMA PULSE CAPABILITIES**, THE ANDROID IS DUBBED **"FATGIRL".**



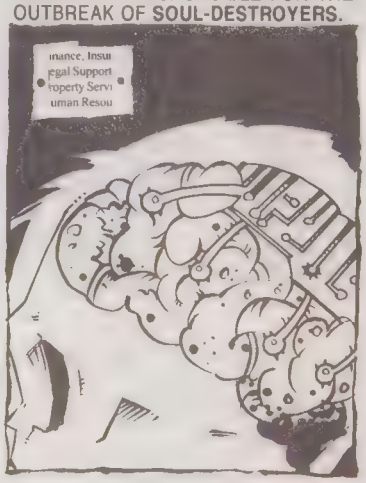
EFFECTIVELY, BY PLACING THE **NANO MACHINES** INTO **SMALL VATS**, AND FEEDING THEM MOLECULES IN THE FORM OF RAW WASTE, THE MACHINES COULD **"GROW"** BY **REPRODUCING** THEMSELVES ON THE **ATOMIC LEVEL.**



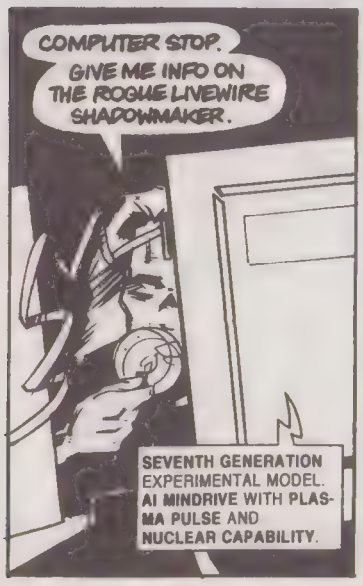
TWO YEARS LATER **CAINCORP** DEVELOPS A SHADOWMAKER WITH **NUCLEAR** CAPABILITY.

CURRENT MODELS IN USE ARE THE **SIXTH GENERATION** SHADOW MAKERS.

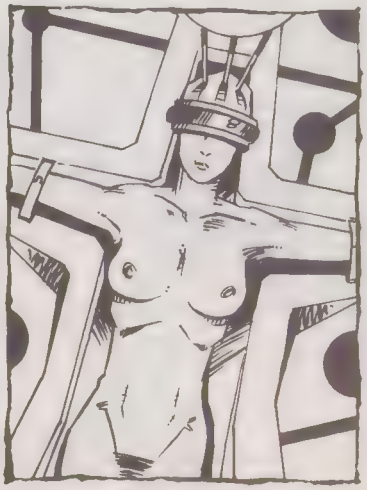
MIND GRAFTS WERE INVENTED, AND SO WERE **VRIL PILLS**, NANO BASED DRUGS WHICH OPERATED AS **PROGRAMS.**
CURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTBREAK OF **SOUL-DESTROYERS.**



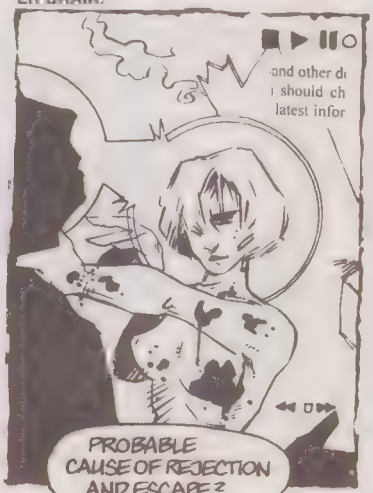
MAIN USE- TO INFILTRATE CORPORATE COMPETITORS AND DETONATE INTERNAL WARHEADS. THE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE WIPING OUT TARGET COMPUTER SYSTEMS. **HIGHLY ILLEGAL WEAPONS.**



THE **PRIME DIRECTIVE** PROGRAMMING WAS NOT LOADED ONTO THE SHADOWMAKER'S **MIND-DRIVE.**



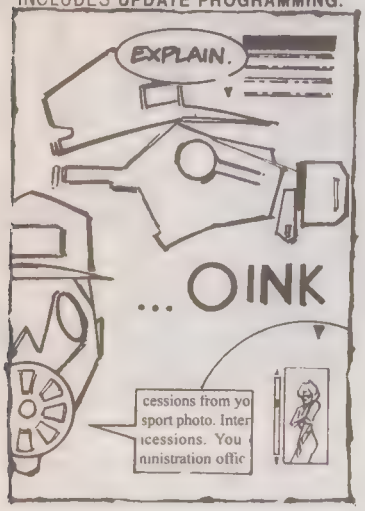
THE **SHADOWMAKER** DESTROYED ALL LAB TECHS AND SECURITY IN **LIVEWIRE LAB 57** BEFORE FINAL **PROGRAMMING** WAS **DOWNLOADED** ONTO IT'S **COMPUTER BRAIN.**

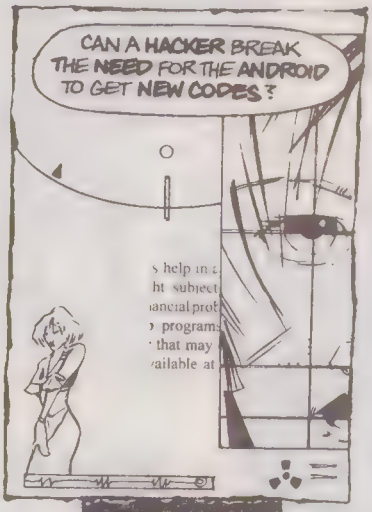


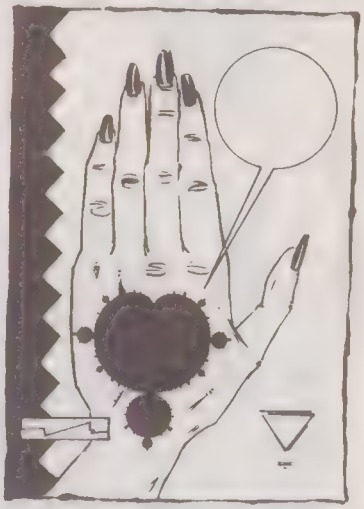
DATA RECEIVED FROM **SOUL-DESTROYER** THE **RAZORBACK** INDICATES THAT THE **SHADOWMAKER ANDROID** HAS BEEN POSSESSED BY A **VIRUS**.
BUILT- IN SAFETY IN THE ANDROID INCLUDES **UPDATE PROGRAMMING**.

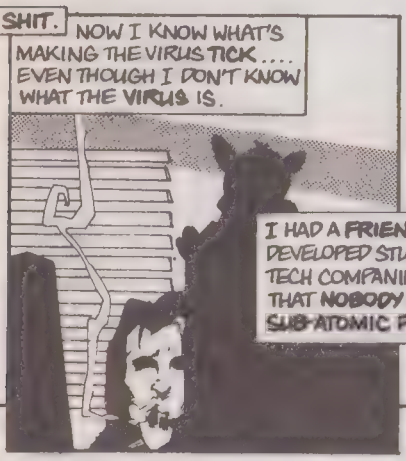
THE **SHADOWMAKER'S** BRAIN NEEDS **UPDATED CODES** FROM **LIVEWIRE CORP** EVERY THIRTY DAYS OR ELSE IT WILL **SHUT DOWN**.

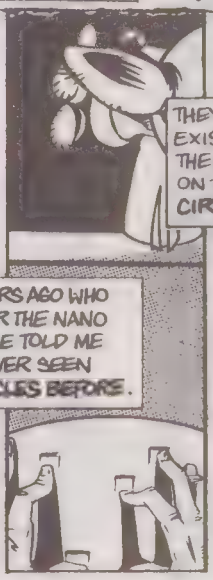
NEGATIVE A CYBERHACKER CAN ONLY **EXTEND** THE TIME NEEDED FOR THE **SHADOWMAKER** TO GET A **NEW CODE**.

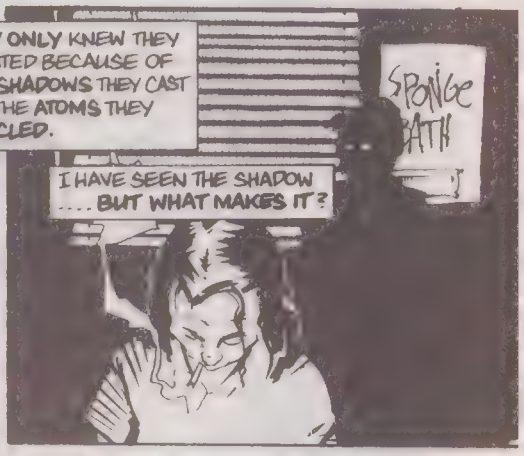






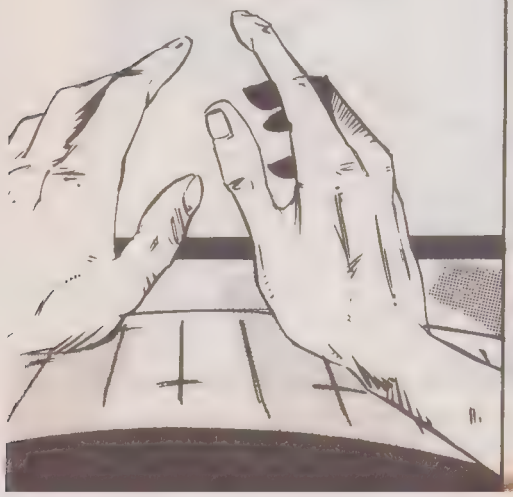


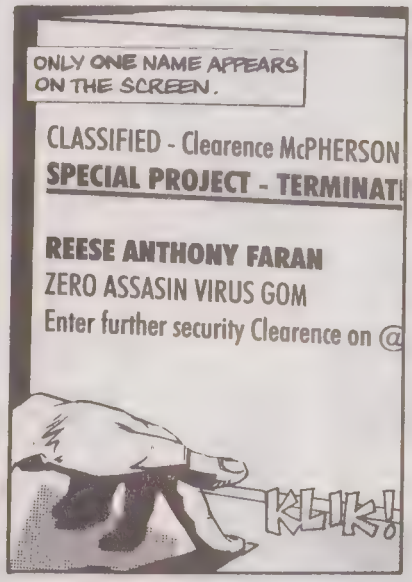


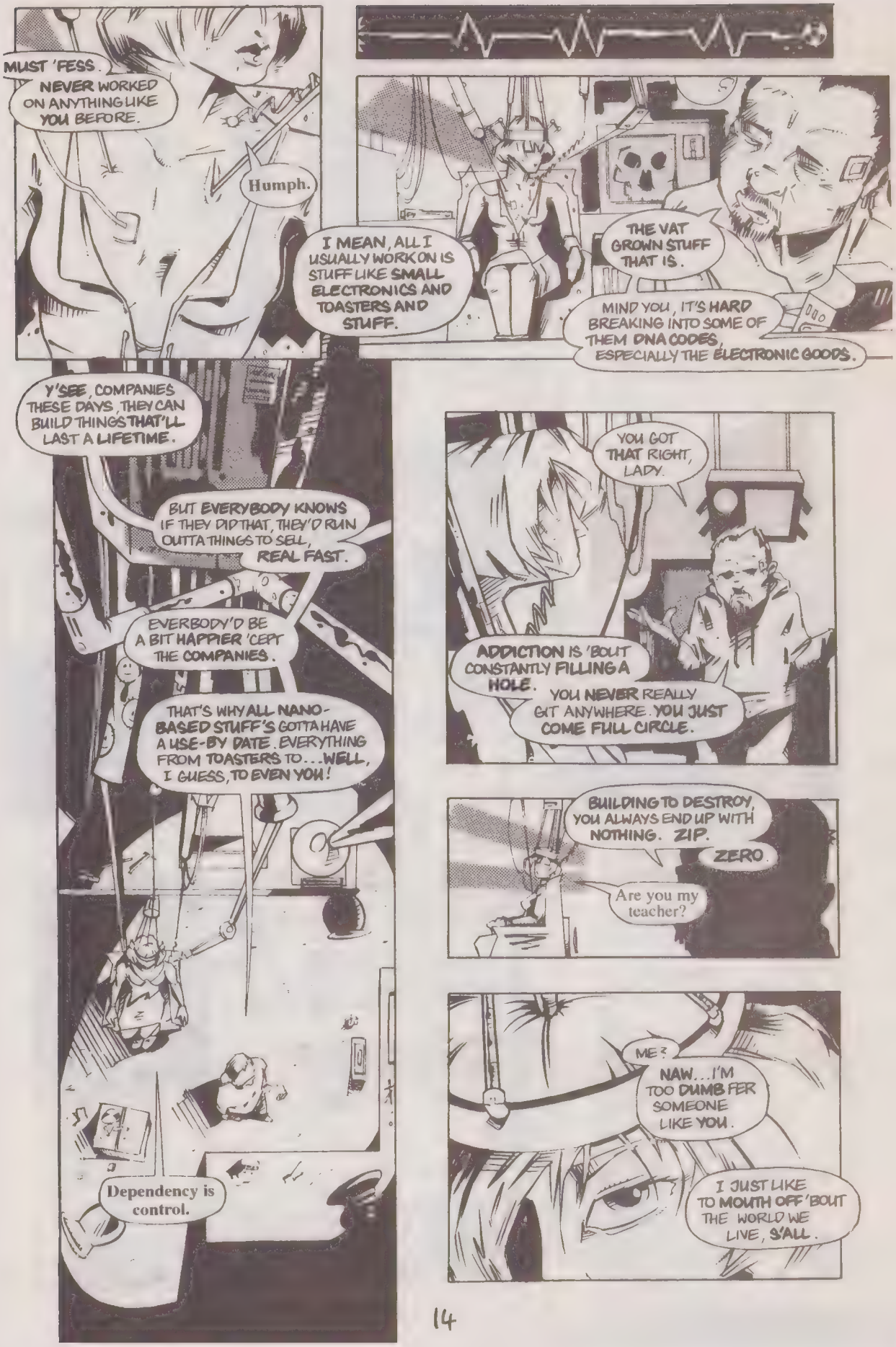


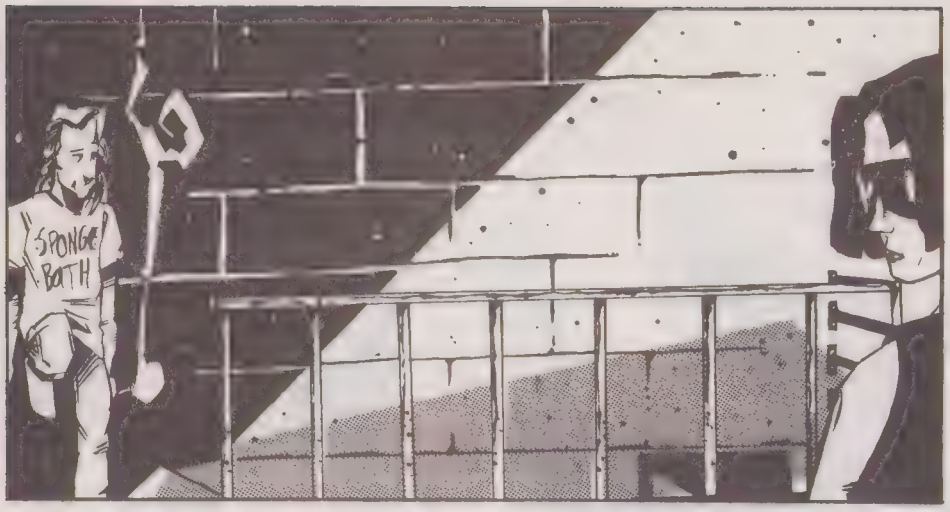
THE **VIRUS** WAS ALREADY IN THE **LIVEWIRE SYSTEM**, WAITING TO POSSESS THE **SHADOWMAKER**.

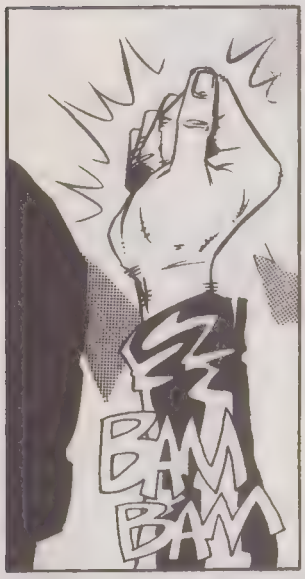
ON A **HUNCH**, I CALL UP ALL THE **LIVEWIRE PROJECTS** THAT HAVE INVOLVED **USING VIRUS'S** IN THE **PAST**.






MUST 'FESS. NEVER WORKED ON ANYTHING LIKE YOU BEFORE.
Humph.
I MEAN, ALL I USUALLY WORK ON IS STUFF LIKE SMALL ELECTRONICS AND TOASTERS AND STUFF.
THE VAT GROWN STUFF THAT IS.
MIND YOU, IT'S HARD BREAKING INTO SOME OF THEM DNA CODES, ESPECIALLY THE ELECTRONIC GOODS.
Y'SEE, COMPANIES THESE DAYS, THEY CAN BUILD THINGS THAT'LL LAST A LIFETIME.
BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS IF THEY DID THAT, THEY'D RUN OUTTA THINGS TO SELL, REAL FAST.
EVERBODY'D BE A BIT HAPPIER 'CEPT THE COMPANIES.
THAT'S WHY ALL NANO-BASED STUFF'S GOTTA HAVE A USE-BY DATE. EVERYTHING FROM TOASTERS TO... WELL, I GUESS, TO EVEN YOU!
Dependency is control.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, LADY.
ADDICTION IS 'BOUT CONSTANTLY FILLING A HOLE.
YOU NEVER REALLY GIT ANYWHERE. YOU JUST COME FULL CIRCLE.
BUILDING TO DESTROY, YOU ALWAYS END UP WITH NOTHING. ZIP.
ZERO.
Are you my teacher?
ME?
NAW... I'M TOO DUMB FER SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
I JUST LIKE TO MOUTH OFF 'BOUT THE WORLD WE LIVE, S'ALL.


SPONGE BATH


BAM
BAM
BAM

WATCH IT WITH THE KNOCKIN' WILLYA? THAT'S A BRAND NEW DOOR YOU'RE .....
Oh.

WHAT'S THE PROB MAN?
NEED ANY...
Oh. OKAY.

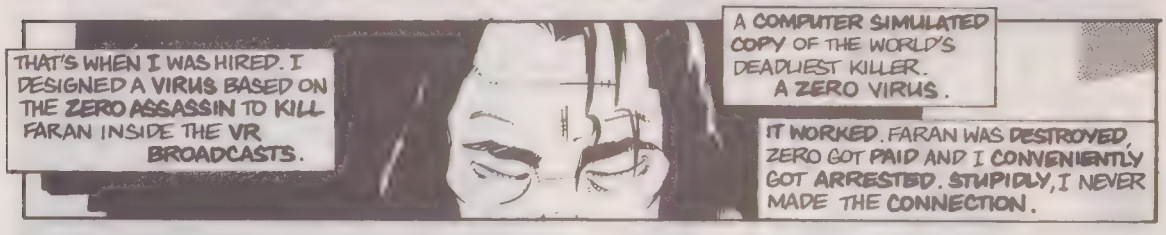
SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU, BOSS.
NOT NOW, IDIOT.
I'M HANDLING THE ACCOUNTS.
OH, I'M HERE TO SETTLE THE ACCOUNTS.

YOU!
WHERE'S THE VIRUS, CHIP?
VIRUS?
I DON'T KNOW...
HEY!...
I DON'T ANSWER TO YOU!
GET OUT BEFORE YOU CRAWL OUT!
YOUR PEOPLE WON'T PROTECT YOU NOW, CHIP.
THEY'RE COMIN' TO WORK FOR MY NICE AND VERY RICH BOSS.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
I PAY THEM ENOUGH.
SNIP
GET HIM.
YEAH RIGHT, CHIP.
GET REAL.
BEEN REAL NICE WORKING WITH YOU, CHIP.
NOT.
BE A CHANGE TO GET PAID.
HEY!
HEY!!!

I HEARD THIS FUNNY JOKE TODAY, CHIP.
I GUARANTEE IT'LL HAVE YOU IN STITCHES...
HEY!
CHRIST-SAKES, RAZORBACK.
SHE'S GONE OKAY?
I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT I DID TO HER
SHE'LL KILL ME.....
SO WILL THIS JOKE, CHIP.
IT'S A FUNNY ONE, CHIP.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS
TELL
Wha
CHUNK CHUNK CHUNK
ME
AaaHHh!
THE PUNCHLINE.
AAARRGGG!!!
CHUNK CHUNK CHUNK
Oh GOD.
OH JESUS.
I LOVE NAILGUNS.
THEY'VE REPLACED THE NEED FOR HAMMERS.
WELL
ALMOST.

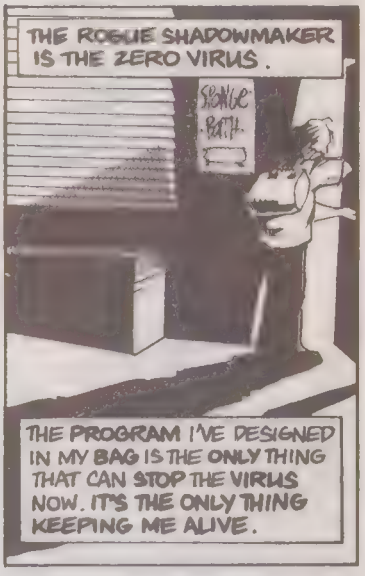
THE CLASSIFIED FILE WAS THE LAST JOB I HAD AS THE GAME OVER MAN. THE ASSASSINATION OF ANTHONY FARAN. FORMER HEAD OF LIVEWIRE.
WE KILLED HIM A WHILE BACK. HE WAS A HARD BASTARD TO WIPE.

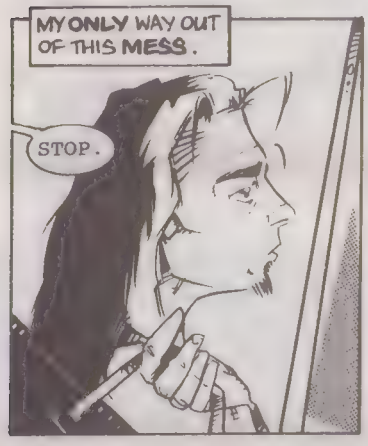
HIRING THE ZERO ASSASSIN TO DO IT WASN'T ENOUGH. FARAN ESCAPED INTO THE VIRTUAL REALITY BROADCAST. KILLING HIS BODY CEASED TO BE AN OPTION.
WE HAD TO BURN THE FUCKER'S SOUL.

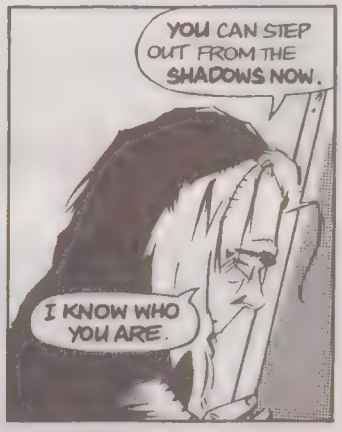

THAT'S WHEN I WAS HIRED. I DESIGNED A VIRUS BASED ON THE ZERO ASSASSIN TO KILL FARAN INSIDE THE VR BROADCASTS.
A COMPUTER SIMULATED COPY OF THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST KILLER. A ZERO VIRUS.
IT WORKED. FARAN WAS DESTROYED, ZERO GOT PAID AND I CONVENIENTLY GOT ARRESTED. STUPIDLY, I NEVER MADE THE CONNECTION.

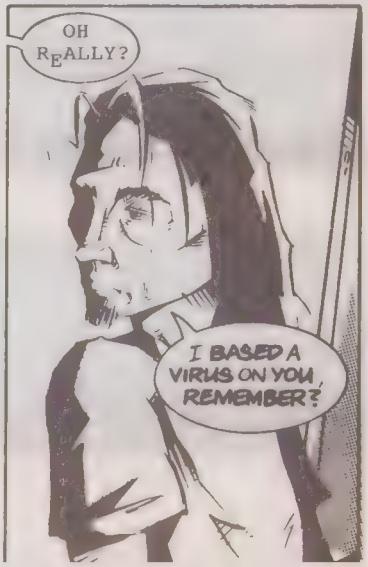
BUT THE ZERO VIRUS LIVED ON. I DESIGNED IT TO EVENTUALLY BURN ITSELF OUT LIKE MY OTHER VIRUS'S. SOMEHOW IT'S SURVIVED.

SOMEHOW IT'S SURVIVED AND POSSESSED THE BODY OF A SHADOWMAKER AND IS NOW WREAKING HAVOC AROUND THE CITY.

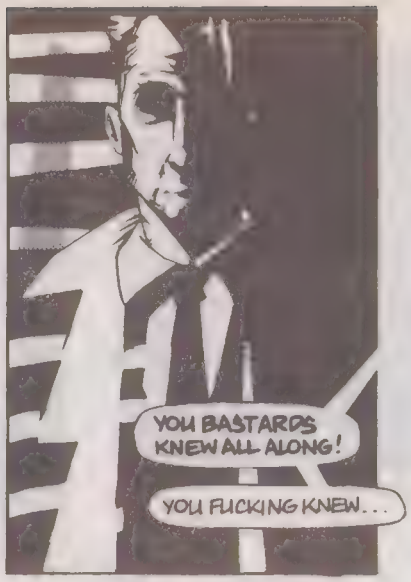

THE ROGUE SHADOWMAKER IS THE ZERO VIRUS.
SPONGE BATH
THE PROGRAM I'VE DESIGNED IN MY BAG IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP THE VIRUS NOW. IT'S THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME ALIVE.

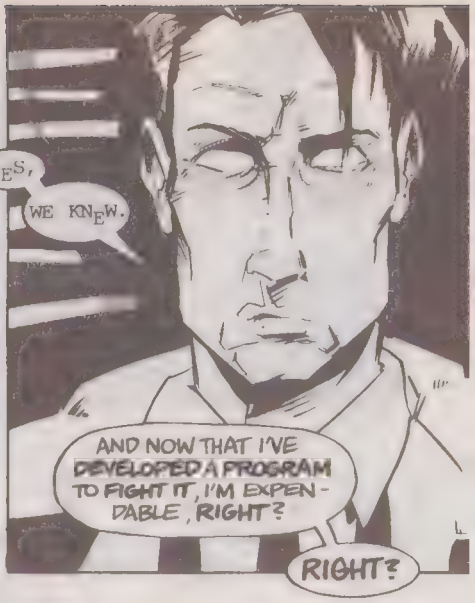

MY ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS MESS.
STOP.

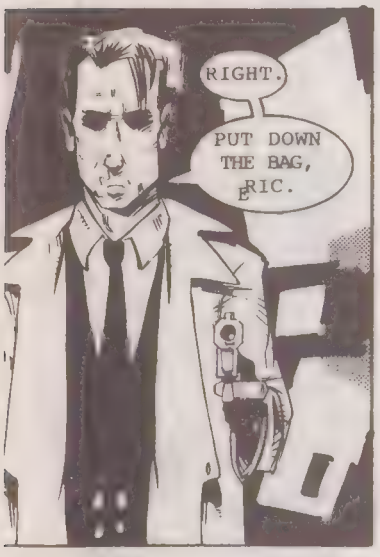

YOU CAN STEP OUT FROM THE SHADOWS NOW.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

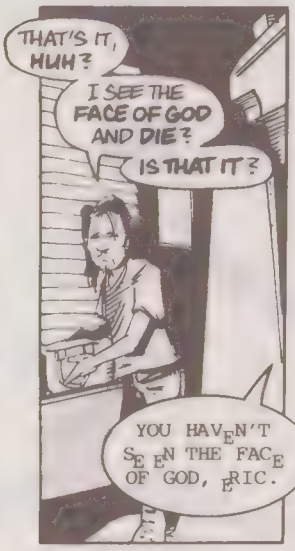

OH REALLY?
I BASED A VIRUS ON YOU, REMEMBER?

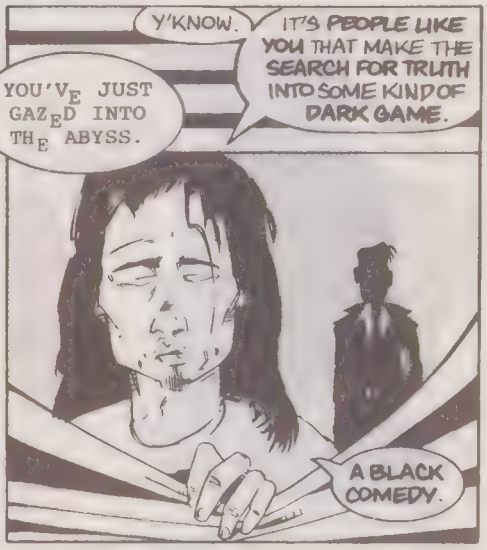
HUMPH! AND NOW YOU KNOW WHAT'S POSSESSED THE SHADOWMAKER.

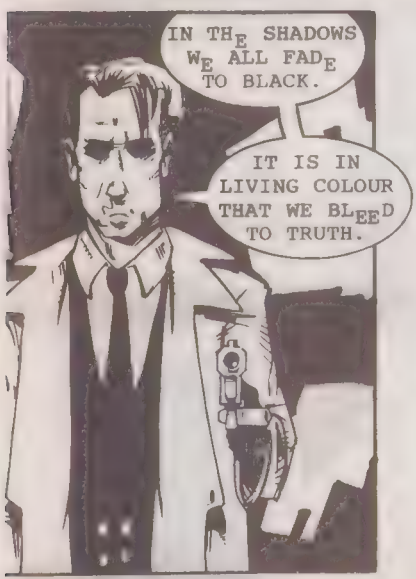

YOU BASTARDS KNEW ALL ALONG!
YOU FUCKING KNEW...


YES, WE KNEW.
AND NOW THAT I'VE DEVELOPED A PROGRAM TO FIGHT IT, I'M EXPENDABLE, RIGHT?
RIGHT?

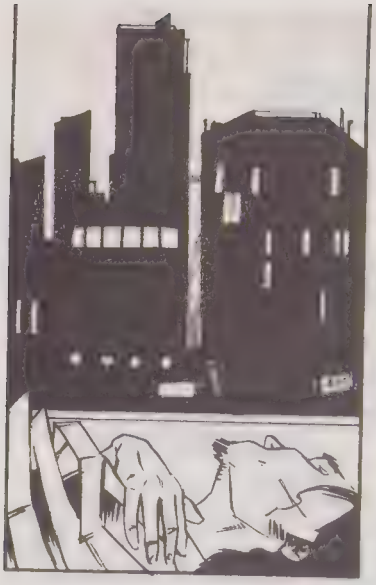

RIGHT.
PUT DOWN THE BAG, ERIC.


THAT'S IT, HUH?
I SEE THE FACE OF GOD AND DIE?
IS THAT IT?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE FACE OF GOD, ERIC.


Y'KNOW. IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT MAKE THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH INTO SOME KIND OF DARK GAME.
YOU'VE JUST GAZED INTO THE ABYSS.
A BLACK COMEDY.

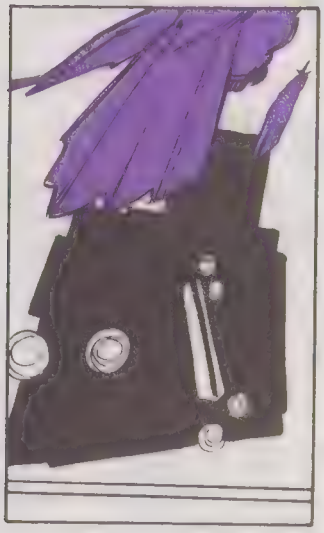

IN THE SHADOWS WE ALL FADE TO BLACK.
IT IS IN LIVING COLOUR THAT WE BLEED TO TRUTH.

BLAM



STRIP

STRIP
BAR



ZERO RABBIT
YUP. TECHNOLOGY. MARVELLOUS THING. AND NOWADAYS, IT'S COMPLETELY, UTTERLY INFALLABLE!
CALL: RITA- SHE BLOWS BIO-DOGS TOO!
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 SEND 0 FAX
IT DOESN'T STOP HUMANS FROM MAKING the SAME OLD MISTAKES THO.
HELLO?
IS THIS THE RIGHT END??
AND IT DOESN'T HELP WHEN YOU'RE USING a PHONE DESIGNED DURING the 'JETSONS™ FAD of the LATE TWENTIES.
SO HERE'S the GO. WINSTON BERK HAS GOT a NEW, STRONG SUPERBODY WAITING for HIM at the END of the LINE.
SOMEONE ELSE WANTS him DEAD.
JETSON™
PLEASE DIAL NANO-NUMBER™!
SEND
BOOP FAX
WHO? WHO? HEY BUDDY-THIS IS NEO-SYDNEY!! GO STICKING your NOSE in TOO DEEP and IT'LL COME OUT COVERED in an ICKY BROWN SUBSTANCE!
HEY LOOK! WINSTON'S OFF!
GLOW!
THE DIGITIZED NANO-WILSON is BLISSFULLY UNAWARE HE DIALLED the WRONG NUMBER.
EXIT
THANK YOU FOR USING NANOTUBE
GNAP
NANSPOON™
GOOD EVENING, Mr. BERK. GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT FOR DINNER.
LET'S START WITH COFFEE AND THEN MOVE ONTO ICE-CREAM, EH, Mr BERK?
NNo
"OCCUPIES NO ANY EMPTY CONVENIENT." BADLY TRANSLATED SUNGLASS' HOLDER INSTRUCTIONS.
DW JAMES '94

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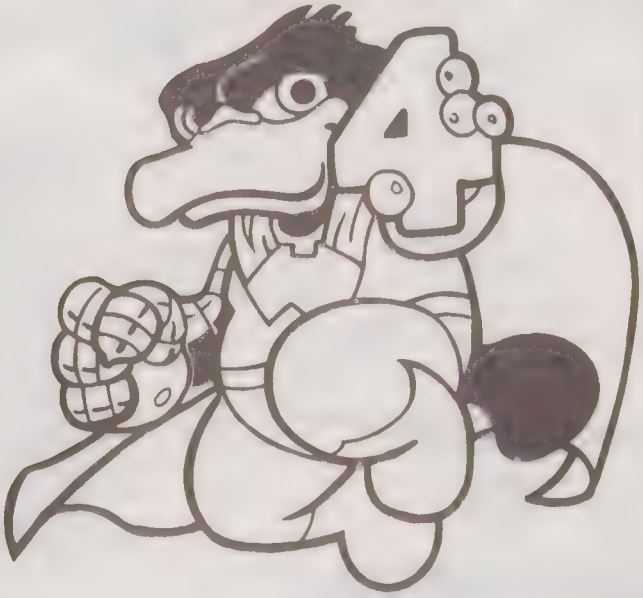

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ARRRGGGGH!
OOAFFFF!
BOOM

SHEEEEEEEIT!
AHUH, AHUH AHUH
OH SHIT COUGH COUGH
ACCESS
FUH-FOUR NINE TH-THREE FIVE.
TIM LEARY'S DONKEY.
I'LL BE BACK
AB
HELLO. ZERO. I'VE JUST BROKEN THROUGH THE FIRST SEAL.
THE ASSASSINATION WILL GO ALONG AS PLANNED.
NO CHANGES TO SCHEDULE.
THAT'S RIGHT. UNMARKED BILLS. BLACK ATTACHE.
WITHHOLD PAYMENT AND YOU'LL PAY IN SPADES.

MICK RAVE & THE RAD WEEDS

Written by **Max Autohead- Illustrated** by **Steven Scott- Lettered** by **Stuart Hale**

SOUNDTRACK- ROCK 'N ROLL STAR- OASIS

BIG DAZE OUT FESTIVAL.
ZONE 23, ZONE CITY 2035 AD.
BIG DAZE OUT
MR SHIT
BACKSTAGE...
HELLO MICK RAVE, ROCK STAR.
PISS OFF! NO AUTOGRAPHS! NO INTERVIEWS!
I AIN'T DOWN HERE FOR YOUR MONEY. I AIN'T DOWN HERE FOR YOUR LOVE...
LOOK BUDDY, IF YOU DON'T RACK OFF I'LL...
YOU...
PLEASED TO MEET YOU

HOPE YOU GUESSED MY NAME!
OH SHIT!
LOOK I... I'VE CHANGED MY MIND LUCY BABY
UH-HUH. LIKE OL' JIM SAID...
"AIN'T NO-ONE GETS OUTA HERE ALIVE".
I GOTTA CONTRACT BABY. YOU SOULED OUT!
CHAOS
AWWW SHIT. LOOK, I... I'VE GOT MONEY... FANS
NO TRADEOFFS TONIGHT.
OH, THE ZERO ASSASSIN GOT TO YOUR CLONE TONIGHT. NO BACK DOORS TO MY COMPANY, MICK.
MICK! YOU'RE ON IN FIVE MINUTES! MOVE IT!
I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
BELIEVE IT.
TONIGHT, YOUR LIFE MEANS ZERO! HAHAHAHAHA!

GOT ME AN UZI
I WAN-CHA TO KNOW!
THIS IS MY LAST CALL
I WAN-CHA TO KNOW!
THIS IS WHERE I FALL
I WAN-CHA TO KNOW!
DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU
BUT I WILL BE
DEAD!
I'VE BEEN GROWN UP TA BE...
UP TA BE...
OOC
JUMPIN' JIMI!
HE'S DEAD!
...WASTED!

ZONE 37 - 24 HOURS LATER
...WE CROSS THERE NOW, LIVE WITH TOM SMELLARD...
THANKS JANE. PURE PANDEMONIUM HERE...
MICK RAVE'S FUNERAL HAS BEEN INTERUPTED BY RIOTING FANS
COME BACK MICK
MICK'S NOT DEAD
ALL SCREAMING FOR THE RESURRECTION LAWS TO BE CHANGED
...AND MICK RAVE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE!
THE KIDS
BUT AFTER THE ELVIS CORP DEBARCLE OF 2028 AD
IT'S UNLIKELY THAT ZONE CONTROL
...WILL RECONSIDER
...ANY SUCH LAWS
WELL
WELL,
WELL
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
ANOTHER ROCK'N'ROLL CLICHÉ?

TIME TO FULFILL
THE REST OF YOUR CONTRACT!
WHAT THE...
NO SUH-SOUL
NO SOUL!
SIGH.
I GUESS I SHOULD'VE LISTENED...
RIP
WHEN THEY WARNED ME 'BOUT TECHNO.
SCREW IT!
ARRRGGH!
HAS HE... HAS HE...?
YES. THE CONTRACT IS DESTROYED.

UNBELIEVABLE! I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER...
IT WORKED.
NOW YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR MUSIC.
WHA?
NO WAY MAN!
I'M SICK OF THIS WHOLE INDUSTRY!
I'M DONE DEALING WITH DEVILS!
IT'S SUN AND SURF FOR ME!
PERHAPS
BUT THERE'S ANOTHER CONTRACT TO BE FULLFILLED
THE MONEY
OH. YEAH. YEAH MAN! YEAH!
LISTEN, ZERO... THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP AND EVERYTHING...
HELP?
I HAVE NOT HELPED YOU.
ORBIT
YEAH...
RIGHT.
LONG LIVE MR. SHIT
YOU GODDAMN WIERDO!
LOOKOUT WORLD! HERE COMES JOE BLOW!
ALIAS, NORMALMAN!

AND THIS LITTLE BLACK DUCK
IS OUTTA HERE!
HEY WAITAMINNIT, ISN'T THAT...?
THE END.

GET BACK

WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING!

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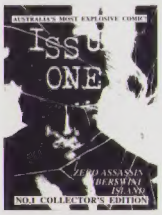

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